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Telling the MND-Baghdad Story

Thursday, May 24, 2007



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from 3rd "Spearhead" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, sets out on a mission in support of the search for the three missing Soldiers. Their missions include transportation of troops and supplies at all hours of the day and night, said Glasgow, Mont., native Capt. Pat Patrino, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot and commander of Company B, 3-227th Aviation.

# Warriors, Commandos Partner Up, Continue Search for Missing Troops

By Spc. Nathan Hoskins 1st Air Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - With Soldiers spread throughout southern Baghdad searching around the clock for their missing comrades, it comes as no surprise that they need a constant stream of supplies to keep them going.

Although the 2nd Brigade Combat Team "Commandos," 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) troops are sometimes trucking supplies out to their brothers and sisters in arms, they mainly rely on the 1st "Warriors" Air Cavalry Brigade's aerial assets to get the job done, said Des Moines, Iowa native Staff Sgt. Darren Larson, a brigade supply noncommissioned officer for 2-10th Mountain.

"I know everybody down range really appreciates everything (1st ACB) is doing. We couldn't have done it without (them)," he said. "(They're) probably, by far, one of the biggest assets we have."

From sling-loading supplies to carrying them internally, the

See Search Page 3

# **Convoy Attacked by Insurgents in Rusafa**

#### **MND-B Public Affairs**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Insurgents attacked a convoy of U.S. State Department members and their Coalition Force security escort with small arms fire at approximately 11 a.m. in the Rusafa District of Baghdad May 23.

The security unit returned fire and requested assistance.

Aviation assets were the first to arrive at the scene of the attack. Apache helicopters from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division arrived ahead of ground forces Company C, 1st from Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, who were patrolling nearby when the attack began.

Apache helicopter crews located several armed insurgents and fired the aircraft's 30mm main gun. The insurgents then ceased their attack.

"We responded to troops in

contact with the enemy," said Col. Daniel Shanahan, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Air Cavalry Brigade. "Our aircrews engaged valid targets, making positive identification of the enemy."

When ground forces arrived on the scene, the State Department personnel and security elements were then able to leave the area. Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers and Iraqi

Security Forces secured the area following the attack.

No MND-B Soldiers were killed or injured during the attack.

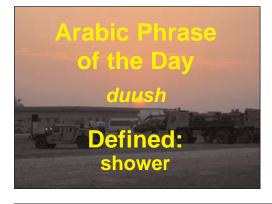
The incident is under investigation.

### Just Like Spiderman

Spc. Andrew Buzler (left) of Amery, Wisc., and Staff Sgt. Haven Crecelius of Denison, Iowa, move from rooftop to rooftop while clearing a block of buildings during Operation North Sweep II in the Sabak Sur neighborhood May 14. Both paratroopers are with Company 2nd C, Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-82 Abn. Div. Public Affairs)



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



**Today** 

High: 109



**Tomorrow** 

High: 110 Low: 79



Saturday

110 High: 112 79 Low: 79

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# Soldiers Continue Search by Bird, Foot

### Search From Page 1

Warrior air crews make sure their comrades have everything they need to continue their search for the missing Soldiers, said Glasgow, Mont., native Capt. Pat Patrino, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot and commander of Company B, 3rd "Spearhead" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment.

"We're doing raids on targets, insertions, extractions, re-supplies, emergency re-supplies, troop movement ... pretty much anything they ask for that we can do we'll do, to include slingloads," he said.

The Commando Soldiers behind getting the supplies ready for 1st ACB to transport are from Company A, 210th Brigade Support Battalion. They understand that working quickly and effectively with their aerial partners is critical to keeping the mission going, said Capt. Anita Trepanier, commander of Company A, 210th BSB.

"Our mission, right now, is to support the troops that are on the ground trying to find our fellow comrades with logistics support," she said. "We have come together as a team to support our fellow Soldiers forward."

Along with ammunition, medical supplies, food, and water, the Warriors are also transporting boats which aide the troops having to search in and around the canals, said Clinton, Mass., native 1st Sgt. Todd Harger, the senior noncommissioned officer for Co. A.

"We've pushed boats, so they can cross rivers and search the canals," he said. "Those canals, they don't look deep, but they're very deep. In some cases, 10- to 12-feet deep.'

As supplies are flown out to the troops on the ground, the troops on the ground are also

"It says it in the Warrior Ethos, we will never leave a fallen comrade, and we are not going to leave our fellow Commandos."

> Capt. Anita Trepanier Company A, 210th BSB

transported quickly to search areas or capture insurgents during hasty air assaults,

"It's very hasty planning. They give us some products and we go execute it as best we can. Things change on the fly," he said. "A normal air assault would be anywhere between 48 and 96 hours to plan; these are anywhere between the one to six hours range in terms of from planning to execution.'

With all these missions, the Spearhead crews know the extra work hours are for a worthy cause, said Patrino.

"All the guys in the company actually want to be on the team that is supporting this operation," he said. "They feel like they're directly supporting the cause."

These missions are all done on top of their normal work load, Patrino

"The guys have all gotten together and they've all put in real long hours and have been flying their butts off. They



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

Cisco, Texas, native Sqt. Ron Scheuren, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chief for Company B, 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, gets ready to fly out on a mission in support of the search for the missing 10th **Mountain Division Soldiers.** 

haven't complained or anything because there's a tangible goal ... to recover those missing Soldiers," he said.

Trepanier said she hopes the missions continue until the Soldiers are brought back.

"It says it in the Warrior Ethos, we will never leave a fallen comrade, and we are not going to leave our fellow Commandos," she said.

"There are three missing Soldiers out there that we're trying to find," Patrino said, "and we're trying to do anything we can to help.'



### Youth of Sadoun Street Use Concrete as Canvas

By Maj. Sean Ryan 2-2 Inf. Div. Public Affairs Officer

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq - Sadoun Street in Baghdad was an important commercial district with many chambers peddling their goods daily on both sides of the bustling streets. Sadly, the narrow lanes that key lodgings like the Palestine and Baghdad hotels call home became targets of car bombs in recent years.

To help quell the violence, temporary concrete barriers were emplaced for the safety of the Iraqi people by Coalition Forces on Sadoun Street, but were clearly an eyesore. The high concrete blocks run approximately half a mile and separate traffic on both sides.

The residents in the neighborhood accepted the safety facets of the barriers, but decided to make it look a little more like home if the barriers were there to stay.

Today, the t-wall barriers that stand over 10 feet tall are unmistakable, as the concrete has been formed to replicate an artist canvas. The beautiful murals depict the daily lives of Iraqis with multiple water scenes like fishing in the waters, herding livestock, an array of animals and ships at sea.

Some of the scenes take up to seven barriers and are so vivid, it's difficult to grasp the surface is concrete at first glance.

Commissioned by the Baghdad Municipalities, 140 men were pulled from local areas, and employed to paint the barriers. Mainly in their late teens and early 20's, the men were hired in hopes of expanding their art knowledge, painting skills as well as giving the economy a boost.

One local store owner said the barriers are already bringing more customers into his small restaurant that had been decimated since the violence started.

"With the bombs going off and then concrete walls separating the street, no one could walk or cross the street before," the restaurant owner said. He said he was barely making it, but now people are stopping to look at the walls and getting a bite to eat in the process.

The barriers were first sketched and



(Photo by Maj. Sean Ryan, 2-2 Inf. Div. Public Affairs Officer)

Local Iraqi artists created murals on concrete security barriers on Sadoun Street near the Abu Nuwas Market in eastern Baghdad. Under Operation Fardh Al-Qanoon, also known as the Baghdad Security Plan, the Abu Nuwas Market is going to be re-opened for public use which will mean more customers for Sadoun Street, as well. More than 140 artists were employed for this project.

then areas painted in. The street many were calling "Death Road," has become a sight to look at, not avoid.

Another local business owner of a carpenter shop between Sadoun and Abu Nuwas streets said he hasn't really worked since the barriers went up. He said in the previous 8 years before the barriers, he had always been busy.

He said he's very happy the walls were painted and people stop and look.

Under Operation Fardh Al-Qanoon, also known as the Baghdad Security Plan, the Abu Nuwas Market is going to be reopened for public use. This should mean more customers for Sadoun Street merchants, as well.

The rebuilding of Abu Nuwas Street has already begun as repairs on sidewalks, parking renovations, street cleaning, trash removal and overall beautification has started. In addition, barrier removal plans are being conducted by the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, currently operating as part of the 2nd Infantry

Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

Maj. Anthony Judge, the executive officer for 1-504th PIR, who is spearheading the barrier project said opening the market will help stimulate the economy by providing Iraqis with jobs.

Due to this barrier removal, some businesses are able to view the Tigris River for the first time since 2004 and plan on reestablishing their businesses and lives.

### Reminder

#### **Force Protection Exercise**

All military and civilian personnel on Victory Base Complex will be required to be in Uniform Posture U2 from 1100 to 1600 Friday, May 25. Each person must don a helmet, outer tactical vest and ballistic eye protection. Internal traffic control points will only allow passage to vehicles with passes and/or traffic that is mission essential.